

Attorney Docket No. 5649-1073
Application No.: 10/616,056
Filed: July 9, 2003
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REMARKS

The Applicants sincerely appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephonic conversation of December 21, 2004 discussing the Office Action of December 10, 2004. To the extent that the Applicants are required to provide a written record of the telephonic conversation of December 21, 2004, this response is believed to suffice. If any additional submission should be required, however, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify the undersigned attorney via telephone as soon as possible.

In response to the Office Action, the Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-26, 63-91, and 95-97, drawn to methods of making semiconductor devices. Accordingly, the Applicants have canceled Claims 27-62 and 92-94. The Applicants note that Claims 15-26, 41-52, 54-57, 64-77, and 79-91 were previously canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the application. The Applicants have also added dependent Claims 98-109 (corresponding to originally filed Claims 15-26), dependent Claims 110-123 (corresponding to originally filed Claims 64-77), and dependent Claims 124-136 (corresponding to originally filed Claims 79-91). No fees for excess claims are required for the new claims because an equal number of claims were canceled in this response.

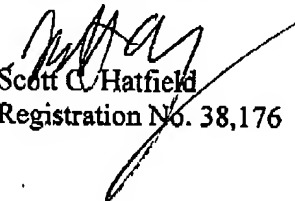
With respect to Group I, the Office Action states that Claim 1 is generic to a plurality of the disclosed patentably distinct species comprising the method claims. In the telephonic conversation of December 21, 2004, the Examiner provided clarification that Claim 1 is generic to all species of the method claims. In addition, the Applicants further submit that Claim 14 is generic to Claims 12-13, 78, 98-109, 111-114, and 124-136. Moreover, Claim 95 is generic to Claims 1-13, 63, 78, 96-97, 102-108, and 110-136. Accordingly, the Applicants elect prosecution of the species of Claim 95 including Claims 1-13, 63, 78, 95-97, 102-108, and 110-123-136. Should one or more generic claims be found allowable, the Applicants respectfully request that all claims in that species be examined and indicated allowable.

The Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested in due course. The Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if any additional issues should need to be addressed regarding the restriction and/or election requirement.

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If any extension of time for the accompanying response or submission is required, Applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee, which may be required, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Date of Deposit: January 7, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Joyce Paoli

